

WIFE AND CHILDREN  
SEE MAN KILLED

Watching Through Window,  
They See Lightning Strike  
Charles Kroeger Dead—Body  
Mutilated and Scorched.

Within full view of his family, who had gathered at the windows to watch the storm, Charles Kroeger, a wealthy farmer living four miles north of Edwardsville, was killed by lightning yesterday afternoon.

Kroeger was returning to the house after getting his stock under shelter and was struck by the bolt as he was entering the yard. Before his terrified family could reach him his clothes were nearly burned from him.

Before the storm Kroeger had been working about the fields and had turned most of his stock into the barnyard. As he returned for dinner the weather indications were not such that he thought it necessary to feed his horses and cattle in the barn.

While he was eating his dinner, however, the storm broke, and as his family arose to go to the windows he stated that he would drive his stock under roof.

Before he had reached the barn the rain was falling in torrents and his wife and children could not see him after he left the yard. They were watching the lightning and for his return, when they saw him running into the yard, his hand hardly raised from the gate when a blinding flash and terrific roar of thunder almost overtook him.

Mr. Kroeger was the first to reach the window again, and through the blinding rain saw his wife and children rushing out into the storm and shouting the blazing lightning.

Terrified, they gathered about hysterically, weeping, and it was some time before they carried the body buried today under the house.

One of the children was sent to a neighbor.

The bolt left Kroeger almost unrecognizable. Besides burning his hair and face, both arms were charred. His right arm was cut off, and a splintered leg was broken. Where he fell a large hole was torn in the earth. His body was found in a ditch, and the body was found in a ditch, and the body was found in a ditch.

BATES COUNTY TAXPAYERS  
ASK FOR DRAINAGE CANAL

Commissioner Appointed by Court to View Route for Thirty-Mile Ditch—Would Reclaim Land.

Butler, Mo., May 4.—A petition was filed with the Bates County Circuit Court today asking for the establishment of a drainage district in the south part of the county.

The petition recites that there are 2,000 acres of flat swamp lands along and adjacent to the Missouri river, and that the drainage of these lands is a matter of public interest.

The court appointed John T. March, C. T. Vanhook and R. P. Johnson as commissioners to view the route of the proposed drainage canal and make a report to the court.

BOWEN IS EXPECTED TODAY

No Action in Loomis Case Till  
Roosevelt Returns.

Washington, May 4.—Secretary Taft today said that no action of any kind would be taken in the Loomis case until the return of President Roosevelt. Mr. Loomis is expected to return from New York tomorrow.

Under ordinary circumstances, he would report his arrival as a diplomat to Mr. Loomis, the Acting Secretary of State, but since it was Secretary Taft who sent the order for his return, he will report personally to him.

The President will arrive in Washington Friday of next week and Mr. Taft will report to him.

BRIDEGROOM FAILS TO COME

Flanese and Guests Wait in Vain  
at Topeka, Kas.

Topeka, Kas., May 4.—A party given for the wedding of a young man and a young woman at Topeka, Kas., yesterday afternoon, failed to get started because the bridegroom failed to appear.

An hour later a friend of the bride appeared in the reception room and announced that the ceremony was postponed until the following day.

The intended bride was in tears in her room and refused to discuss the matter. Her friends are waiting for her to return in the morning.

MANY ITALIANS FOR TEXAS.

Des Planches Party Says 100,000  
May Settle in Lone Star State.

Des Planches, Tex., May 4.—Before departing for Austin today to visit the Texas Legislature and Governor Lamm, it was announced by members of the Italian American League of Des Planches that as a result of the present immigration law, possibly as many as 100,000 Italians may be settled in Texas during the next few years.

WOULD NOT DISCUSS REPORT.

Nothing Given Out Concerning  
Indian Inspectors' Findings.

Washington, May 4.—Secretary Hitchcock today would not discuss the contents of the report made by Cyrus W. Cole and W. E. Jenkins, Indian inspectors sent to the Indian Territory to investigate the claims of the Cherokees for land.

MURDERS TWO. KILLS SELF.

Ranchman Shoots Man and Wife  
Before Committing Suicide.

PINE STREET INVESTMENT  
REALTY SOLD FOR \$120,000.

Trust Company Client to Improve  
Downtown Property—Other  
Deals Secured.

The St. Louis Union Trust Company made two important purchases of real estate yesterday for one of its clients, the deals amounting to \$120,000. Both purchases were made of James M. Carpenter, the real estate agent, and a heavy property owner, and were closed through the Holbrook-Blackwell Real Estate Trust Company.

The property includes the three-story buildings Nos. 1015-17 Pine street, lot 6230 feet, at \$75,000, and 400 feet of ground on the south side of Pine street between Taylor and Euclid avenues for \$25,000. The Pine street buildings are occupied by tenants at a monthly rental and can be vacated on short notice in case of improvements or other needs.

FAVORABLE WHEAT REPORTS  
CAUSE PRICES TO WEAKEN.

VOLUME OF BUSINESS IN  
CORN SMALL.

Covering by Shorts and Buying  
Makes Oats Firm, and Provisions  
Are Sold.

Chicago, May 4.—Fresh confirmation of favorable progress being made by the fall-crop wheat in the West was the wheat market here today. At the close July was off 4/16c. Corn is down 1/16c. Oats are up 1/16c to 1/8c.

DECREASE SHOWN  
IN COMMERCIAL FAILURES.

Statistics Prove That April Was an  
Exceptionally Prosperous Month  
in the United States.

Commercial failures during the month of April, as reported by R. G. Dun & Co., were only 23 in number and \$6,643.96 in amount of liabilities, a much better exhibit than was made during the corresponding month last year, when there were 1,012 defaults, involving \$1,152,000.

LARGE STOCK OFFERINGS  
MET BY FEEBLE DEMAND.

MOTIVES FOR LIQUIDATION  
NOT CLEAR.

Confidence in General Situation  
Is Professed, but Faith in Cer-  
tain Issues Wavers.

New York, May 4.—Liquidation was seen on a large scale in today's stock market, and a very feeble demand presented itself to absorb the large offerings. So much was obvious from the volume of the dealings and the movement of prices.

STEAMBOATS.

Select Sunday Excursions  
For Charter  
Yacht "Urtagon."

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